4. Bokaro Steel Plant
5. Alloy Steel Plant
6. Salem Steel Plant
7. Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant
8. Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd.
9. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

B. Private Sector

1. Essar Steel Ltd.
2. Ispat Industries Ltd.
3. Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd.
4. Jindal Vijayanagar Steel Ltd.

Raw material supply to Steel Companies

2005. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel companies, hit by rising cost and supply constraints of critical inputs like iron ore and coking coal, may get some support from Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated package for the steel manufactures, with a view to make sufficient quatity of raw materials available to them at remunerative prices;

(c) if so, the details thereof and to what extent this has been helpful; and

(d) whether this package has been incorporated in the revised national steel policy?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) In a deregulated and decontrolled industry, the prices of steel as well as raw materials such as iron ore and coking coal are determind by the interplay of market forces. Government does not directly intervene to control prices.

12.00 NOON

Nevertheless, in order to augment the supply of coking coal in the country, Government is allocating captive coking coal blocks to the iron and steel producers. Government has also abolished the custom duty on imports of low ash coking coal and the custom duty on high ash coking coal has been reduced to 5% in the current budget in a bid to check the rising cost of this item. Moreover, there is no shortage of iron ore in the country and Government is committed to ensuring adequate availability of iron ore for the steel industry.

(d) The Revised National Steel Policy (NSP), *inter-alia,* seeks to remove the supply side constraints including iron ore and coking coal for the growth of the industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, I lay on the Table of the House, under sub-section (4) of section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Notification G.S.R. 143 (E) dated the 1st March, 2005, publishing the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 2005.

[Placed in Library *See* No. L.T 1798/05]

I. Report and Accounts (2003-2004) of the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited (BVFCL), Namrup, Assam and related papers

II. Report and Accounts (2003-2004) of the Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, Haryana and related papers

THE MINISTER CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

1.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—